(b) As per the information available, 30 foreign mercenaries were arrested in J & K during the period from 1.10.96 to 30.6.97. There were 2838 terrorist related incidents perpetrated by militants including foreign mercenaries during this period, resulting in the killing of 873 civilians and 138 security forces personnel.

(c) Close vigil is being kept by the Security Forces along the border/LOC and in the interior areas. Various arrangements have been made for this purpose, including intensive patrolling, provision and use of surveillance equipment, including night vision devices, etc., deployment of forces in the vulnerable areas both on the LOC/Border and in the hinterland, setting up of Village Defence Committees in some of the sensitive regions near the border, and close and continuous coordination between all concerned security and intelligence agencies etc. The arrangements are being continuously reviewed and strengthened/streamlined as found necessary.

Return and rehabilitation of displaced Kashmiris

1774. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken, so far, to ensure return and rehabilitation of displaced Kashmiris who had to flee their homes in the Kashmir valley;

(b) whether conditions congenial to their return back home have been established; and

(c) how many have returned and how many are yet to return?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) With the taking over of a popular Government, after successful conduct of Assembly Elections in the State, October 1996, the State Government has given top priority for formulating a scheme for safe and honourable return of Kashmiri migrants to their native places. The State Government has constituted an Apex Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation Minister to look into all aspects of the problem of migrants. A Sub-Committee headed by the Financial Commissioner (Planning & Development), has also been constituted to draw up an action plan for return of migrants after eliciting their views.

जम्मू और कश्मीर में आतंकवादी गतिविधियां

1775. **प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) जम्मू और कश्मीर में विधान सभा चुनाव तथा नई सरकार के गठन के पश्चात कितनी आतंकवादी घटनाएं हुई हैं:

(ख) इन घटनाओं में मारे गए सैनिकों, अर्ध-सैनिक बलों, पुलिस बल के कार्मिकों, नागरिकों तथा आतंकवादियों का ब्यौरा क्या है:

(ग) इन आतंकवादी घटनाओं के पीछे पाकिस्तान का हाथ किस हद तक पाया गया: और

(घ) सरकार जम्मू और कश्मीर में आतंकवाद को रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठा रही है?

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पैंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एस. आर. बालासुब्रह्मण्यन): (क) और (ख) 1.10.1996 से 30.6.1997 तक की अवधि के दौरान जम्मू और कश्मीर में कुल 2838 घटनाएं हुई जिनमें 873 सिविलियन, 138 सुरक्षा बल कार्मिक और 762 आतंकवादी मारे गये थे।

(ग) जम्मू और कश्मीर में आतंकवाद को सीमापार से सहायता दी जा रही है और भड़काया जा रहा है।

(घ) सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों में सम्मिलित हैं: सीमा/नियंत्रण रेखा पर गहन गश्त सहित पुलिस और सुरक्षा बलों द्वारा सतत अभियान चलाना, आतंकवादी विरोधी अभियान आसूचना तंत्र को सुदृढ़ करना और विभिन्न एजेन्सियों के बीच सुरक्षा प्रबन्धों को समन्वय इत्यादि। राज्य की विकास संबंधी आवश्यकताओं पर ध्यान दिया जा रहा है। सरकार द्वारा यह सुनिश्चित करने

के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं कि शांति और सामान्य हालात जल्दी ही बहाल की जाय।

Infiltration of Foreign Mercenaries in J&K

*1776. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in 'The Indian Express' dated the 10th July, 1997 under the catpion, "Ultras taking over CM constituency, Parry";

(b) if so, how 3500 foreign mercenaries, including Afghans, have been able to infiltrate into Kashmir, despite our intelligence agencies and security forces; and

(c) the steps being taken to counter this serious treat to the unity and integrity of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MANISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) Government have seen the newsreport. There are reports to the effect that increasing use of foreign mercenaries are being resorted to by Pak ISI to give a fillip to militancy in Kashmir. However, it is not possible to indicate the precise number of foreign mercenaries in J & K. While it is not feasible to seal the border hermetically due to the difficult nature of terrain conditions in J & K, the security forces are, constantly vigilant and are taking all necessary steps to defeat the nefarious designs of Pak ISI.

Close vigil is being kept by the Security Forces along the border/LOC and in the interior areas. Various arrangements have been made for this purpose, including intensive patrolling, provision and use of surveillance equipment, including night vision devices, etc., deployment of forces in the vulnerable areas both on the LOC/ border and in the hinterland, setting up of Village Defence Committees in some of the sensitive regions near the border, and close and continuous coordination between all concerned security and intelligence agencies, etc. The arrangements are being continously reviewed and strengthened/streamlined as found necessary.

High Voltage Propaganda on Human Rights by Kashmiri Militants

1777. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Pakistani design of infiltrating foreign mercenaries into Kashmir as reported in Indian Express of 10th June, 1997;

(b) whether militants in Kashmir are also being instigated to launch high voltage propaganda on human rights, as a prelude to launching attacks by the mercenaries; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to meet the above challenge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) Government have seen the newsreport. There are reports to the effect that increasing use of trained foreign militants/mercenaries are being resorted to by Pak ISI to give a fillip to the militancy in J & K. Launching of high voltage propaganda on the alleged human rights violations through militants is also a part of the game plan of the Pak ISI to sustain militancy in the Valley and garner public support.

While carrying out anti-militancy operations, the security forces have been asked to make a conscious effort to see that opportunities, which could be exploited for false propaganda by the militants and secessionist organisations do not become available as a result of their actions. Security forces are also vigilant and are taking all necessary steps to curb the nefarious designs of the Pak ISI and the militant activities in J & K. Apart from surveillance and counterinfiltration